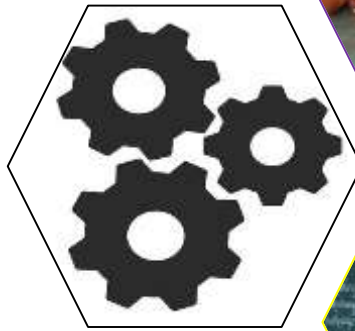


Oral Communication



Oral Communication

Quarter 2

Self-Learning Module 4

Shift in Speech Context, Speech Style, Speech Act and Communicative Strategy That Affects the Language Form





LESSON

Change in any part of the communication process brings change to the entire process. This means that change from one speech style to another, one speech context to another or from one communicative strategy directly or indirectly affects the entire communication process. Today, you will be learning shifts in communication and one of these shifts that affects the communication process is the **Language Forms**.

Language forms deal with the internal grammatical structure of words and phrases as well as the word themselves. When we say language form it can be formal or informal.

Example: **purchase** is **formal** while **buy** is **informal**;
inform – **formal** and **tell** – **informal**

Form is the style in which a piece of text is written for example novel, short story, play, dramatic monologue, and sonnet.

Language is considered as the vocabulary used within a text including language devices, such as pathetic fallacy, personification, direct speech and metaphor.

Formal language is characterized by the use of standard English, more complex sentence structures, infrequent use of personal and lack of colloquial or slang terms. Informal language, on the other hand, allows the use of nonstandard English terms, colloquial vocabulary, and typically shorter sentence structures.

Consider the following words: **investigate**, **examine**, **check out**. Each of them has a different level of formality. While **check out** can be used in informal writing and speech, using it in a formal research paper would not be appropriate.

Example:

Formal: The study examined the health effects of passive smoking.

Informal: The study checked out the health effects of passive smoking.

Formal: This experiment was successful.

Informal: This experiment worked just fine.



Contractions are more casual and if you are striving for more formal style, they should not be used. Contractions in negative sentences should be especially avoided since they are easy to miss.

Informal: The outcomes of the study haven't been documented yet.

Formal: The outcomes of the study have not been documented yet.

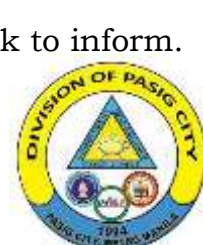
Likewise, a speaker must use the appropriate form of language to be used in a given setting. The technical term for the form of language is **register**. There are different registers of any given language depending on the formality of the communication setting, participants, topic, and other factors. For example, there are different registers for speaking in a showbiz talk show, funeral, academic forum, casual conversation and others. A speaker must know which register to use and the elements of that register when speaking to specific audience. For example, when a doctor speaks to an audience of doctors, he or she may as a speaker may use medical jargon, which are words or terms specific to a field of medicine. Register may also change because of a shift in topic or setting. For example, during a conference of doctors, a speaker must use formal language but during their entertainment night, the speaker must definitely use informal language because the topic is not academic but about entertaining stuff.

Shifts in communication affect the form of language being used. This does not concern the variety of languages but may take the forms that reflect the types of sentences. (Lander, 2016)

Can you still recall the types of sentences? These are: Declarative (making statements), Interrogative (asking questions), Imperative (commands or requests) Exclamatory (expresses strong emotion). All of them are parts of language forms.

How can we apply language forms in speech context? Blend of language forms are observed in Intrapersonal and Interpersonal communication; they both use formal and informal language.

In public and mass communication, we often use declaratives and not commands because you are giving information just like speaking for an advocacy in front of a lot of people. Speakers here usually give statements to inform. Reporters on TV and radio use declaratives too since they speak to inform.



For Speech style, we mostly use **declaratives** too for Formal and Frozen styles, then we can shift to interrogative or asking questions in Consultative style since we are asking for clarification. But as speakers we can shift the blend of declarative, interrogative and exclamatory in casual and intimate style of communication.

Language form in Speech Acts also changes. We use declarative for Assertive and Declaration; mostly exclamatory form in Expressive Speech Act. Example: We say, “Wow! Oh!”, when you get amazed with someone or something.

But Imperative language form is employed when we give Directives and Commissives.

Examples:

- DOH shall institute measures to ensure that all accredited COVID-19 laboratories observe transparency in the pricing of tests.
- I promise to be on time.

For Communicative strategies like Nomination, Turn-taking, and Topic Control we use mixed forms of interrogative and imperative.

Examples:

- What was the most interesting trend for 2019?
- Wait for your turn to speak. Let’s listen first to the present speaker.

In Topic Control, Repair and Termination, we mostly use declarative and exclamatory forms of sentences.

Examples: *This is the topic you must focus with.*

Let me rephrase my statement...

Let me end by saying

Language Structure: language is a “nested structure.” For example: letters are combined to form syllables, syllables are combined to form words, words are combined to form clauses and sentences. (Hawkins, 177)

Human language involves two types of structures. In the first, elements from a finite set of meaningless “sounds” are combined into meaningful “words” and parts of words, known as “morphemes.” Linguists call this “phonology.” The rules of phonology cover “intonation” and “rhythm,” as well as the way specific sounds can be combined. In the second type of structure, words and morphemes are combined into “phrases.” This is what linguists call “syntax.” (Kenneally, 154)



(Includes) factors involved in carrying out a structural analysis of language, whether spoken, written or signed.

In general, *form* refers to the shape and structure of something. It can also mean the organization, placement and relationship between things. As such, language form refers to the so-called surface features of language and how these are arranged. The rules that govern how particular language features are arranged are the grammar of the language.

When we shift into any of the four: speech style, speech context, speech act and communicative strategy, it affects the language a lot. It gives a completely different impression to the listener and changes the duration of interaction considerably.

The language form is also changed with the change of vocabulary and strategy.

In speaking situations such as dyad, small group, public and mass communication, language shifts depending on who we are speaking to and the language we use. Language form also shifts depending on the environment or the atmosphere where communication takes place. Like for example, a mother and daughter (dyad) talking about a certain situation at home. The language that they use when they communicate to each other may be different when they are in a group and when they are at home. For when they are at home, they can comfortably communicate than when they are in public. The language they use may vary.

Examples:

- **Speech Context**

Dyad (Best friend): *Are you hanging with the gang tonight?*

Dyad (Best friend's mother): *Miss Lopez may I ask for your permission to allow your daughter to have a dinner party with us tonight?*

(Change of tone and words are carefully thought out.)

- **Speech Styles**

Intimate (Family member): *Mom are we going to attend that thing?*

(The word thing is only familiar to them and not shared in public.)

Casual (Friend) *I ain't coming tonight we're gonna be at the wake.*

(Slang, street language)



- **Speech Act**

Locutionary (friend's house): *Would you be so kind to pass the rice please?*

Locutionary (your house): *Pass the rice before I starved to death!*

- **Communicative Strategies**

Termination (Stranger): *Do you have anything else to say; can I go now?*

Termination (Teacher): *Best regards to you Miss Olesco. See you around Madam!*

Guided Practice

Read and analyze the conversation of the siblings below.

SIBLINGS WHEN THERE ARE NO VISITORS	SIBLINGS WHEN THERE ARE VISITORS
<p>Ruie: Hey brotha!!! You wash the dishes or else I'm going to punch you!</p> <p>Adrian: Punch your face! It's your turn tonight. Not mine!</p>	<p>Ruie: (smiling and whispering) Would you be so kind to wash the dishes tonight?</p> <p>Adrian: Not a problem my dear brother!</p>

As observed in the two scenarios above, language form shifts depending on the speech context, speech style, speech act and communicative strategy. Communication between two people changes when the context changes and so when the audience changes too.



ACTIVITIES

Activity 1

Analyze the conversation below and identify the speech context and the language form used.





<https://www.pinterest.ph/pin/411797959668979794/>

Answers:

Activity 2

Reflect: Think of TV presenters in different situations – gossip or talk show, variety show, headline news, celebrity news and opinion. Describe how the forms of language they use are different from each other. Write the answer on a sheet of paper.



WRAP-UP

To wrap-up everything you learned about the lesson, draw a table with two columns. On the first column, write the types of speech style, speech context, speech acts and communicative strategies. On the next column, write the language form being used.

